THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) At present no specific scheme/project is being implemented/sponsored by the Government in the North Eastern Region for use of Israel like Scientific methods for enhancement of agriculture production.

However, a Technology Mission on Intergrated Development of Horiticulture in the North Eastern Region including Assam has been proposed to be implemented during the 9th Five Year Plan. The Technology Mission envisages an integration of the activities of research, development, marketing and post harvest management of horticulture of the North East Region.

CROP Insurance Scheme for Himachal Pradesh

967. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme covers all farmers of country at present;

(b) whether the loanee farmers in Himachal Pradesh are being covered under Crop Insurance Scheme at Present;

(c) whether Government have been requested by State Government of Himachal Pradesh to cover non-loanee farmers under the scheme as in (a);

(d) whether Government have also been requested to provide insurance coverage to high value crops like Vegetables, Potatoes, fruit crops besides foodgrain crops; and

(e) if so, details thereof with action taken on (c) and (d)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) which is presently being implemented by 15 States and 2 Union Territories (including Himachal Pradesh) Covers those farmers who avail crop loans from the rural financial institutions viz. cooperatives, commercial banks and regional rural banks for raising wheat, paddy, millets (including maize), pulses and oilseeds.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir, suggestions for coverage of non-loanee farmers, fruits, vegetable crops etc. under crop Insurance have been received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

To enlarge the coverage in terms of farmers, crops and risks under CCIS, the Government have decided to introduce a Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS) from Kharif 1999 season. Under the new scheme, it is proposed to cover all farmers (both loanee and non-loanee) and commercial/ horticultural crops in respect of which requisite yield data are available. Details of the new scheme are being finalised in consultation with Ministeries/ Departments and other agencies concerned.

Insurance coverage to plantation and fruits crops is already available under separate schemes implemented by the subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India.

Trend of Agricultural Producation

968. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate in agricultural production during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) how these trends compare with those of 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(c) what are the reasons for low growth in agriculture in recent years; and

(d) what are the projection for 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The annual growth rates in gross domestic

product (at'1993-94 prices) for agriculture sector for the years 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, and 1998-99 are given as under:

Year	Annual Growth Rate%
1995-96	−0.1
1996-97	9.6
1997-98	−1.3
1998-99	5.4

(c) The growth of agricultural sector has been fluctuating mainly due to variant behaviour of the climate and weather conditions in different parts of the country. However, the agriculture sector has been maintaining a long term growth over the years.

(d) The Ninth Five Year Plan envisages an average growth rate of 4.5%

Revised Pay Scales for ICAR Scientists

969. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the revised UGC pay scales for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) scientists have not been implemented yet, though it was notified long back;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Agricultural Research Service Scientists Forum has represented the matter to the Prime Minister; and

(d) if so, the details and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The revised pay scales for the ICAR Scientists have been implemented vide council's letter No. 1(15)/98-Per. IV dated 27th February, 1999.

(c) and (d) A particular Unit of the Agricultural Reserch Service Scientists Forum has made representations to AM/PM and other authorities for early implementation of UGC pay package for ICAR Scientists. Revised pay scales of the Scientists have already been implemented vide Council's letter dated 27.2.99.

कृषि पर टर्मिनेटर बीजों का हानिकारक प्रभाव

970. **श्री कपिल सिब्बल:**
श्री बलवन्त सिंह
सामूवालिया:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कि देश में कृषि क्षेत्र में टर्मिनेटर बीजों के प्रयोग से खाद्यान्न उत्पादन हानिकारक सिद्ध हुआ है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(ग) कृषि क्षेत्र में टर्मिनेटर बीजों के उपयोग से क्या-क्या जोखिम होने की संभावना है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): (क) और (ख) फसल पर बुरा असर डाले बिना उत्पादित बीजों की व्यवहार्यता नियंत्रित करने के लिये डेल्टा और पाइन लैंड कम्पनी तथा संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के कृषि विभाग ने मिलकर "पौध जीन प्रभाव नियंत्रण" नामक एक पेटेंट संयुक्त राज्य पेटेंट सं॰ 5723765 पर कार्य आरम्भ किया है। इस विधि को "टर्मिनेटर प्रौद्योगिकी" कहते हैं।

टर्मिनेटर प्रौद्योगिकी के बीजों को कानूनी माध्यमों से भारत में प्रवेश की अनुमति नहीं दी गई है। इसलिए, देश के खाद्यान्न उत्पादन पर इसके क्षतिकारक प्रभावों की जांच नहीं की गई है।

(ग) कृषि क्षेत्र में टर्मिनेटर बीजों के साथ जुड़े संभावित जोखिम इस प्रकार हैं:—

(1) किसान पिछली फसल से बचाए गए बीजों को उपयोग करने की स्थिति में नहीं होंगे तथा प्रत्येक बुवाई के लिए उन्हें बीज खरीदने होंगे;

(2) इससे किसान की बीज चयन की विशिष्ट योग्यता तथा बीजों को आगे ले जाने के